

House Resolution 369

By: Representative Manning of the 32nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Nutrition and Obesity of Children From Birth to
2 Age Five; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's children are Georgia's future; and

4 WHEREAS, to develop to their full potential, preschool children need a loving, nurturing
5 relationship with their parents or guardians; good nutrition; and adequate exercise,
6 stimulation, and communication; and

7 WHEREAS, young children cannot speak for themselves, and a preschool child who is
8 experiencing a lack of some element vital for healthy development may not get the help
9 needed; and

10 WHEREAS, young children from birth to five years of age require healthy eating habits and
11 physical development to enhance their brain development, improving their ability to enter
12 school healthy and ready to learn; and

13 WHEREAS, 26 percent of Georgia's young children from two to four years of age are
14 overweight or at risk of becoming overweight; and

15 WHEREAS, better coordination of existing programs and services could help ensure access
16 to information and resources to ensure good nutrition and prevent obesity in young children;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, a careful study of existing programs and services and a comparison of nutrition
19 and obesity in young children in counties providing access to information and resources with
20 the nutrition and obesity of young children in other counties would be a first step toward
21 ensuring that all of Georgia's children are safe, healthy, and growing toward successful lives.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 there is created the House Study Committee on Nutrition and Obesity of Children From Birth
3 to Age Five to be composed of 24 members. Five members of the House of Representatives
4 shall be appointed to the committee by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four additional members to include
6 a dietitian, a child care provider, an employee of a county health department, and a
7 representative of the business community. The committee shall include four ex officio
8 members or their designees: the commissioner of the Department of Early Care and
9 Learning; the director of the Family Health Unit of the Public Health Division of the
10 Department of Human Resources; the State School Superintendent; and the director of Smart
11 Start. Additionally, the committee shall include a representative from the School of Family
12 and Consumer Sciences of the University of Georgia; the Barton Child Law and Policy
13 Clinic of Emory University; the Association of Pediatricians; the American Academy of
14 Pediatrics; Family Connection Partnership; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
15 and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The Governor shall appoint four members, to include
16 a parent of a child who is age five or younger, a representative of a local Family Connection
17 organization, a representative of the cooperative extension service, and a person with
18 expertise in early childhood development. The Speaker shall designate a member of the
19 committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the
20 committee.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
22 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
23 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
24 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
25 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
26 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. Expenses of committee members
27 who are state officials or employees shall be reimbursed by their agencies. The legislative
28 members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8
29 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated from funds appropriated to the House of
30 Representatives. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
31 member of the committee for more than seven days unless additional days are authorized.
32 The committee is authorized to use funds available from federal grants or other grants for the
33 purposes of the committee. Staff support for the committee may be provided by the
34 Department of Early Care and Learning and the Family Connection Partnership. In the event
35 the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for

- 1 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2005. The
- 2 committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2005.